

thought fit and natural that the operation of cutting down should be performed on earth at the time when the lunar orb was⁵ so to say, being cut down in the sky. In France before the Revolution the forestry laws enjoined that trees should only be felled after the moon had passed the full; and in French bills announcing the sale of timber you may still read a notice that the wood was cut in the waning of the moon.¹ So among the Shans of Burma, when a house is to be built, it is a rule that "a lucky day should be chosen to commence the cutting of the bamboos. The day must not only be a fortunate one for the builder, but it must also be in the second half of the month, when the moon is waning. Shans believe that if bamboos are cut during the first half of the month, when the moon is waxing, they do not last well, as boring insects attack them and they will soon become rotten. This belief is prevalent all over the East." ² A like belief obtains in various parts of Mexico. No Mexican will cut timber while the moon is increasing; they say it must be cut while the moon is waning or the wood will certainly rot³ In Colombia, South America, people think that corn should only be sown and timber felled when the moon is on the wane. They say that the waxing moon draws the sap up through the trunk and branches, whereas the sap flows down and leaves the wood dry during the wane of the moon.⁴ But sometimes the opposite rule is

L. F. Sauve, *Folk-lore dcs Haufes-* recommended, adds that the best time
Vosges, p. 5 > F' Chapiseau, *Folk-lore-* of all, according to
 universal opinion,
de la Beauce et du Pcrche^i. 291 sy.; was the interlunar
 clay, between the

M. Martin, "Description of the old and the new moon, when the Western Islands of Scotland," in J. Lein; in Pinkerton's *Voyages and Travels*, iii. conjunction with the sun. 630 ; J. G. Campbell, *Witchcraft and* ^ J. Lecceur, *ilsgittSMs du Bocctge* *Second Sight in the Highlands find Norm and* ^ ii. 11 sy. *Islands of Scotland* ^ p. 306; G. ^ 2 Mrs. Leslie Milne, *Shans at J Ionic Amain*", *Tradizioni ed Usi nellapenin-* (London, 1910), p. 100. *sola Sorrentina* (Palermo, 1890), p. ^ 3 Letter of Mr. A. S. F. Marshall, 87 ; K. von den Steinen, *Unter den* dated Hacienda " La Maronna," Cd. *Naturvolkern Zmtral-Bras Miens* (Ber- Porfirio Diaz, Coah., Mexico, 2nd lin, 1894), p. 559. Compare F. de October 1908. The writer gives in- Castelnau, *Expedition dans les parties* stances confirmatory of this belief. I cent-rales do *PAintriqm du Snd* (Paris, have to thank Professor A. C. Scward 1851-1852), iii. 438. Pliny, while of Cambridge for kindly showing me he says that the period from the this letter. twentieth to the thirtieth day of the ^ 4 Letter of Mr. Francis S. Schloss lunar month was the season generally to me, dated 58 New Cavendish